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3. “The possession of knowledge carries an ethical responsibility.” Evaluate this claim.

Ideas so far:

When we obtain knowledge, we are given the responsibility and decision of what to do with that knowledge. With the possession of knowledge, we have the responsibility to decide whether it ought to be shared or not and how the knowledge is to be used. These decisions made involve ethics whether personal, cultural or universal.

Areas of knowledge related:

* Natural Science:
  + Example: Discoveries made by doctors and scientists in their fields of study and what they do and should do with the knowledge they possess.
    - Design of Nuclear weapons. Would the world have been better off without them? Should knowledge of weapon design have been hushed up?
    - Cures for illnesses
    - Knowledge about a person’s condition in healthcare- where knowledge is kept from family members by doctors or patient.
* History:
  + Example: The knowledge we learn and obtain from the past and past events should help us make better ethical decisions in the future.
    - Destructive nuclear bomb in Hiroshima with long-term negative effects.
    - Sanctions against South Africa during Apartheid era. Knowledge gained from foreign countries’ own transgressions force them to act on that knowledge and attempt to prevent segregation from happening again. Believed to be the right thing to do.

Ways of knowing related:

* Reason:
  + We use reason to judge and weigh the consequences, motives and benefits of possessing certain bits knowledge and what we decide to do with it.
* Emotion:
  + Influences our decision about what we decide to do with our knowledge. It may be used for good will but then again it may also influence one to use it for wrong doing.